



Mary Fallin  
Governor of Oklahoma  
Chair

John Hickenlooper  
Governor of Colorado  
Vice Chair

Dan Crippen  
Executive Director

February 28, 2014

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The nation's governors strongly oppose the potential cuts to the Army National Guard advocated by the U.S. Army's fiscal 2015 budget request.

For more than a decade, our National Guard has demonstrated it is a cost-effective, operational force that is critical to our national security at home and abroad.

As commanders-in-chief, we appreciate the need to reorganize, restructure and modernize the military to meet new threats and economic realities. All sectors of the military need to be involved in meeting the targets set by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the realities of having fewer forces engaged abroad. In doing so, however, the Army Guard's operational capabilities and 350,000 end strength level must be preserved.

The Army's proposed cuts suggest a pre-2001 strategic reserve construct. Governors are extremely proud of the role that the National Guard plays in protecting this nation and its citizens. The modern National Guard is a highly experienced and capable combat force and an essential state partner in responding to domestic disasters and emergencies. A return to a pre-9/11 role squanders the investment and value of the Guard and discredits its accomplishments at home and as an active combat force.

Two years ago we opposed similar efforts to dramatically cut personnel and equipment from the Air National Guard. Congress subsequently chose not to impose the cuts and called for a National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force. That commission recently concluded that the Guard is a cost-effective and invaluable force that should be a critical component of the total force structure. The commission's conclusions and the ongoing Army debate strengthen the case for a similar independent review of the Army's future force structure and active and reserve component mix.

We respectfully request that you reconsider proposed cuts to the Army National Guard and changes to the Guard's combat aviation capabilities and that you work with us to fashion solutions that provide a scalable, cost-effective force that best serves the interests of our nation.

Sincerely,

*Mary Fallin*  
Governor Mary Fallin, Chair  
Oklahoma



Governor Terry Branstad  
Co-Chair, Council of Governors  
Iowa



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Co-Chair, Council of Governors  
Maryland



Governor Robert Bentley  
Alabama



Governor Sean Parnell  
Alaska



Governor Jan Brewer  
Arizona



Governor Mike Beebe  
Arkansas



Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
California



Governor Dannel Malloy  
Connecticut



Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware



Governor Rick Scott  
Florida



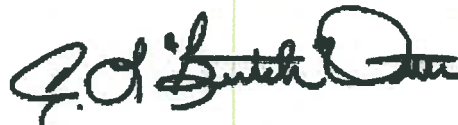
Governor Nathan Deal  
Georgia



Governor Eddie Baza Calvo  
Guam



Governor Neil Abercrombie  
Hawaii



Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Idaho



Governor Pat Quinn  
Illinois



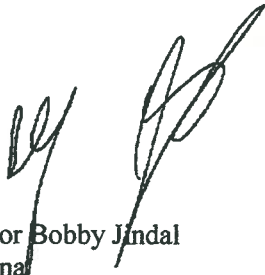
Governor Mike Pence  
Indiana



Governor Sam Brownback  
Kansas



Governor Steven L. Beshear  
Kentucky



Governor Bobby Jindal  
Louisiana



Governor Paul LePage  
Maine



Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts



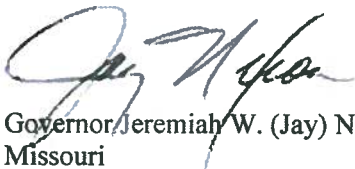
Governor Rick Snyder  
Michigan



Governor Mark Dayton  
Minnesota



Governor Phil Bryant  
Mississippi



Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Missouri



Governor Steve Bullock  
Montana



Governor Brian Sandoval  
Nevada



Governor Maggie Hassan  
New Hampshire



Governor Chris Christie  
New Jersey



Governor Susana Martinez  
New Mexico



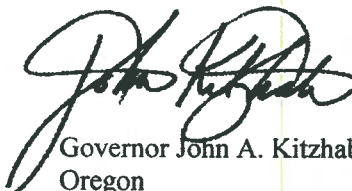
Governor Pat McCrory  
North Carolina



Governor Jack Dalrymple  
North Dakota



Governor John Kasich  
Ohio



Governor John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.  
Oregon



Governor Tom Corbett  
Pennsylvania



Governor Alejandro Javier Garcia Padilla  
Puerto Rico



Governor Lincoln Chafee  
Rhode Island



Governor Nikki R. Haley  
South Carolina



Governor Dennis Daugaard  
South Dakota



Governor Bill Haslam  
Tennessee



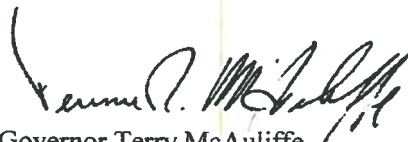
Governor Rick Perry  
Texas



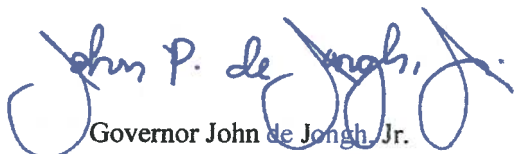
Governor Gary Herbert  
Utah



Governor Peter Shumlin  
Vermont



Governor Terry McAuliffe  
Virginia



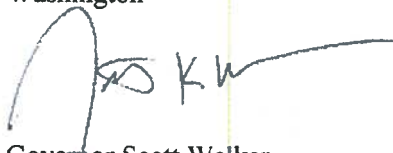
Governor John de Jongh, Jr.  
Virgin Islands



Governor Jay Inslee  
Washington



Governor Earl Ray Tomblin  
West Virginia



Governor Scott Walker  
Wisconsin



Governor Matthew Mead  
Wyoming